

VERTICAL
FILE



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CANBERRA

1986 INCOME DISTRIBUTION SURVEY AUSTRALIA

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

STATE LIBRARY OF N.S.W

Offsite Storage

TQ043686

Cat no 6545.0

CATALOGUE NO. 6545.0

© Commonwealth of Australia 1987

PHONE INQUIRIES	• <i>about these statistics</i> —contact Maureen McDonald on Canberra (062) 52 7375 or any ABS State office.
	• <i>about other statistics and ABS services</i> —contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6007, 52 6627, 52 5402 or any ABS State office.
MAIL INQUIRIES	• <i>write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616</i> or any ABS State office.
ELECTRONIC SERVICES	• on VIATEL — key *656#. • on AUSSTATS — phone (062) 52 6017. • on TELESTATS — phone (062) 52 5404.

CONTENTS

<i>Table</i>		<i>Page</i>
..	Preface	v
..	Selected findings	1
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME 1985-86		
All income units—		
1.	gross annual income unit decile groups by selected characteristics, 1985-86	5
2.	income share for gross annual income unit decile groups by type of income unit, 1985-86	6
3.	gross annual income by type of income unit by State or Territory, 1985-86	7
4.	principal source of gross annual income by type of income unit, 1985-86	8
5.	percentage contribution of government pensions and benefits to gross annual income by type of income unit, 1985-86	9
Persons with earned income—		
6.	gross annual earned income decile groups by selected characteristics, 1985-86	10
7.	labour force participation by sex, 1985-86	11
Full-year, full-time workers—		
8.	income share for gross annual earned income decile groups by sex, 1985-86	11
9.	gross annual earned income by age by sex, 1985-86	12
GROSS WEEKLY INCOME, SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986		
10.	Married couple income units: gross weekly income by labour force participation by number of dependent children, September-December 1986	13
11.	One-parent income units: gross weekly income by labour force participation and number of dependent children, September-December 1986	13
12.	One-person income units: gross weekly income by labour force participation by age by sex, September-December 1986	14
Appendix		
1.	Explanatory notes	15
2.	Glossary	17
3.	Technical note on sampling variability	19
4.	Publication and data dissemination program	22

PREFACE

This publication is the first of a series presenting results of the 1986 Income Distribution Survey. This is the fifth survey conducted by the ABS that has been designed specifically to collect income data from households. The data relate to income units and persons with earned income. More comprehensive data, including information on income of families and households, will be published as results become available.

In the survey, income was collected both on a financial year basis (in respect of 1985-86) and on a current basis, that is at the time of interview. In addition to income, the survey collected data on housing occupancy and costs.

Information on the concepts and methods used in the survey, definitions, interpretation and reliability of results is contained in Appendixes 1-3. Details of the publication and data dissemination program are contained in Appendix 4.

The estimates contained in this publication are preliminary only and subject to revision at a later date.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

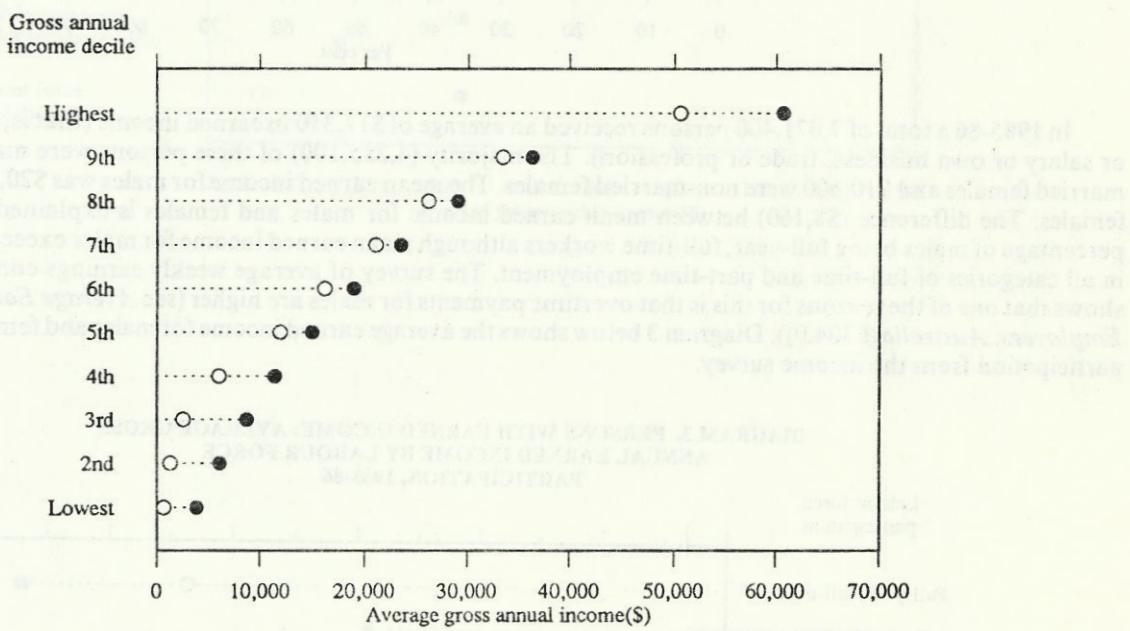
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Belconnen, ACT 2616
November 1987

SELECTED FINDINGS

The mean annual income for all income units in 1985-86 was \$21,390. Married couple income units had a mean annual income of \$29,130 compared to \$12,170 for one-parent units and \$13,320 for one-person units.

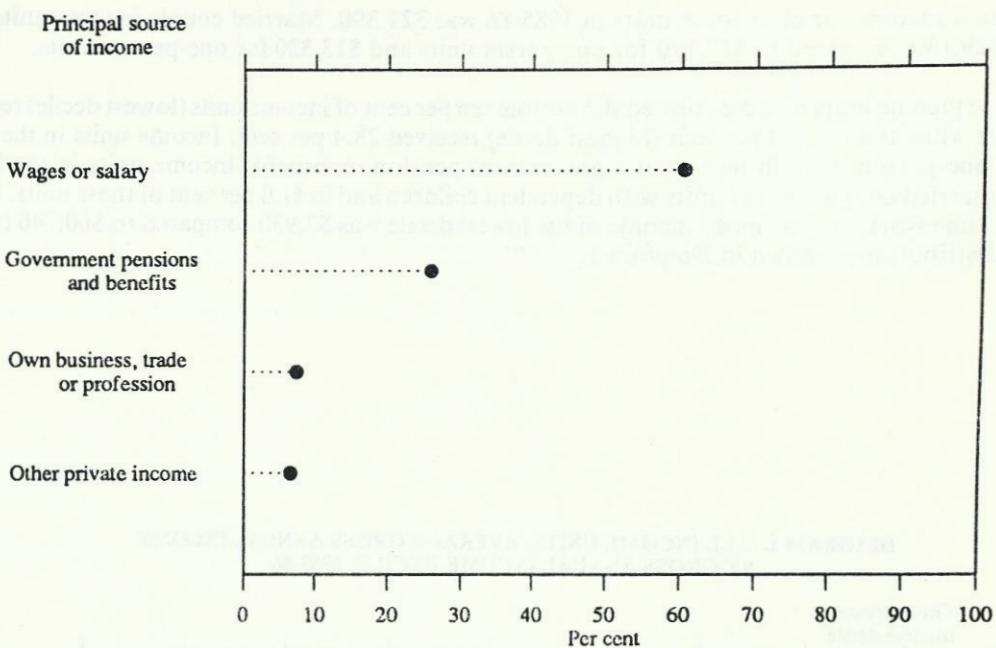
In 1985-86 those income units that constituted the bottom ten per cent of income units (lowest decile) received 1.8 per cent of total income while the top ten per cent (highest decile) received 28.4 per cent. Income units in the lowest decile mainly comprised one-person units in receipt of a government pension or benefit. Income units in the highest decile mainly comprised married couple income units with dependent children and in 41.0 per cent of these units, both partners were full-year, full-time workers. The mean income of the lowest decile was \$3,930 compared to \$60,740 for the highest decile. The decile distribution is shown in Diagram 1.

DIAGRAM 1. ALL INCOME UNITS: AVERAGE GROSS ANNUAL INCOME BY GROSS ANNUAL INCOME DECILE, 1985-86



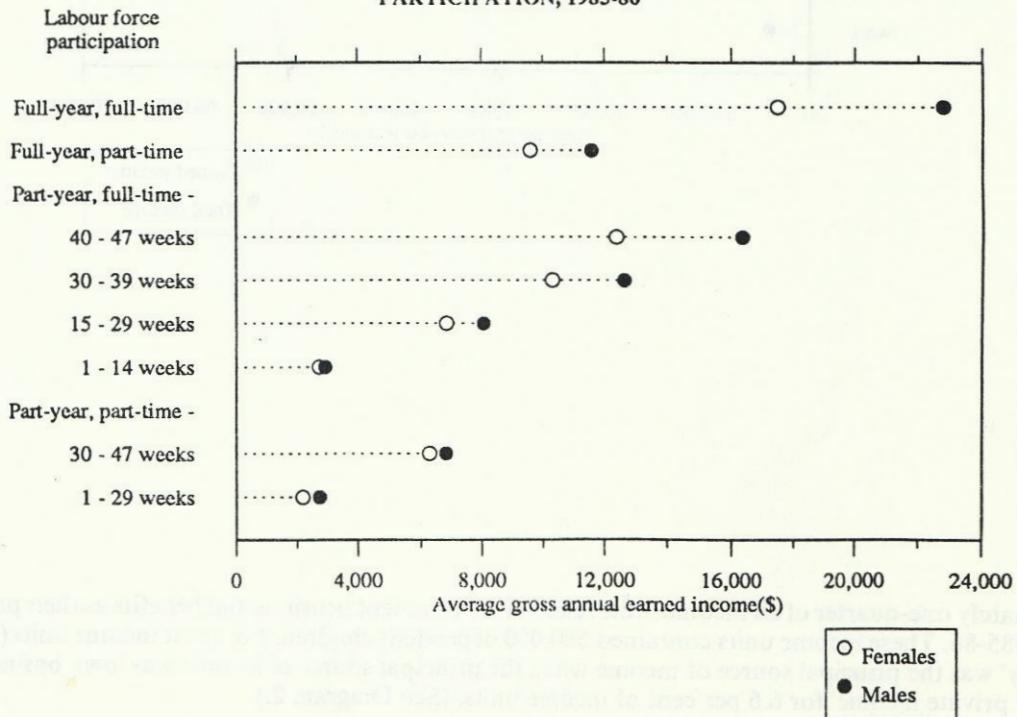
Approximately one-quarter of all income units relied on government pensions and benefits as their principal source of income in 1985-86. These income units contained 560,000 dependent children. For most income units (60.3 per cent), 'wages or salary' was the principal source of income while the principal source of income was 'own business' for 7.4 per cent and 'other private income' for 6.6 per cent of income units. (See Diagram 2.)

DIAGRAM 2. ALL INCOME UNITS: PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF GROSS ANNUAL INCOME, 1985-86



In 1985-86 a total of 7,071,400 persons received an average of \$17,310 in earned income (that is, income from wages or salary or own business, trade or profession). The majority (4,285,100) of these persons were males, 1,875,800 were married females and 910,600 were non-married females. The mean earned income for males was \$20,530 and \$12,370 for females. The difference (\$8,160) between mean earned income for males and females is explained partly by a higher percentage of males being full-year, full-time workers although mean earned income for males exceeded that for females in all categories of full-time and part-time employment. The survey of average weekly earnings conducted by the ABS shows that one of the reasons for this is that overtime payments for males are higher (see *Average Earnings and Hours of Employees, Australia* (6304.0)). Diagram 3 below shows the average earned income for males and females by labour force participation from the income survey.

DIAGRAM 3. PERSONS WITH EARNED INCOME: AVERAGE GROSS ANNUAL EARNED INCOME BY LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 1985-86



On a current income basis (i.e. current income measured during the enumeration period September to December 1986), the mean weekly income for different types of income units is shown in Diagram 4.

DIAGRAM 4. ALL INCOME UNITS: AVERAGE GROSS WEEKLY INCOME BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986

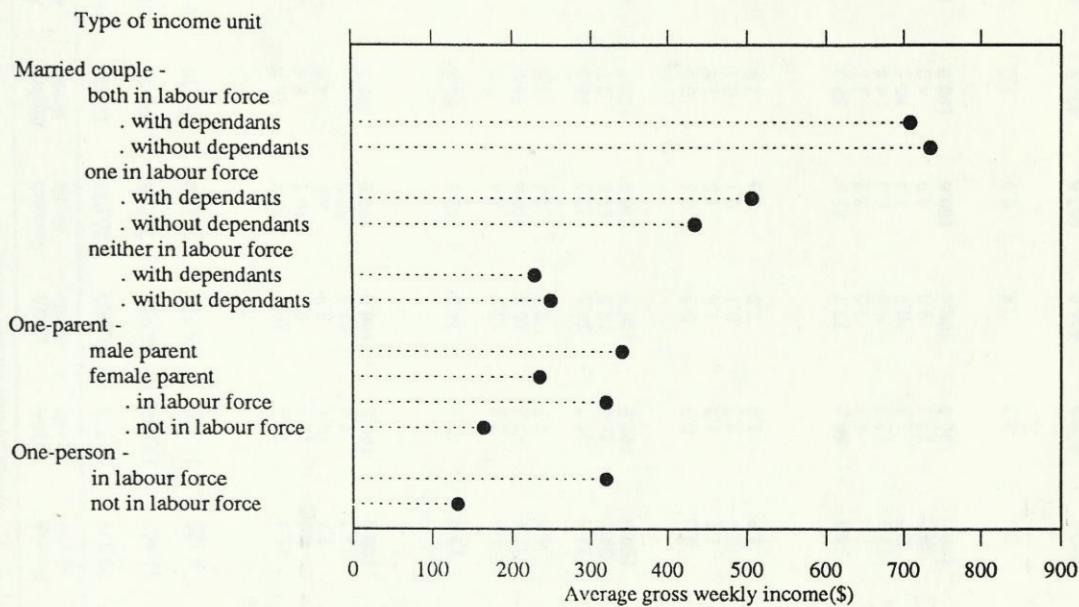


TABLE 1. ALL INCOME UNITS: GROSS ANNUAL INCOME UNIT DECILE GROUPS BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, 1985-86

Characteristics of income units	Gross annual income decile										All income units
	Lowest 10%	Second decile	Third decile	Fourth decile	Fifth decile	Sixth decile	Seventh decile	Eighth decile	Ninth decile	Highest 10%	
Upper boundary of decile group(\$)	5,304	7,470	9,952	13,079	16,918	21,000	26,021	32,388	41,400	n.a.	n.a.
Average gross annual income unit income(\$)	3,930	6,130	8,790	11,460	15,030	18,950	23,500	29,050	36,410	60,740	21,390
Average gross annual earned income unit income(\$)	660	1,270	2,560	6,120	11,940	16,210	21,000	26,130	33,460	50,610	17,000
Proportion of income units with principal source of gross income being:											
Wages or salary	%	17.2	17.0	28.3	46.7	70.6	80.9	84.4	86.6	90.0	81.7
Own business, trade or profession	%	2.9	2.7	3.3	8.2	11.5	9.0	10.1	8.4	6.2	11.4
Other private income	%	8.8	3.6	6.5	7.8	10.1	8.9	4.8	4.9	3.7	6.9
Government pensions and benefits	%	71.2	76.7	61.9	37.3	7.8	*1.2	*0.8	*	*	25.7
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Proportion of income units with income unit type being:											
Married couple units—											
With dependent children	%	5.5	2.5	6.8	13.9	17.3	24.0	40.5	51.8	55.5	54.6
Without dependent children and husband aged(a):											
15-44 years	%	*0.5	*0.4	*0.9	1.4	2.2	3.8	3.6	7.1	14.8	17.4
45 years and over	%	5.1	2.7	42.2	31.1	17.2	16.2	16.6	19.0	16.8	22.0
One-parent units	%	4.6	8.0	9.0	4.6	2.7	2.9	2.2	1.8	*1.1	*0.6
One-person units—											
Male	%	35.5	29.9	19.8	24.5	35.2	34.6	25.6	14.6	8.7	4.8
Female	%	48.9	56.4	21.2	24.6	25.4	18.5	11.6	5.7	3.1	21.6
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of persons per income unit aged(a):											
Under 15 years		0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.5
15-64 years		0.8	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0
65 years and over		0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	0.1
Total		1.3	1.2	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.5	2.8	3.0	2.1
Proportion of income units with labour force participation being(b):											
Full-year, full-time	%	11.6	8.8	15.4	34.5	66.2	77.7	85.0	88.0	91.3	93.0
Full-year, part-time	%	3.2	4.0	4.3	7.3	4.1	3.5	2.2	3.1	1.8	2.6
Part-year, full-time	%	11.8	11.7	13.0	17.1	12.3	9.0	6.5	4.4	3.8	2.1
Part-year, part-time	%	7.6	5.6	6.1	2.9	2.3	*0.8	1.4	*0.5	*	2.7
No weeks worked	%	65.8	70.0	61.2	38.2	15.1	9.0	4.9	4.0	3.0	2.1
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of full-year, full-time workers per income unit		0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4
Estimated number of income units in:											
Metropolitan areas	('000)	429.0	461.5	420.6	420.2	420.5	458.6	463.6	457.8	466.1	518.7
Other urban areas	('000)	196.9	176.3	211.4	202.5	206.0	187.9	182.8	182.6	180.0	122.5
Rural areas	('000)	80.6	49.2	65.1	73.5	69.8	53.3	47.8	56.1	50.5	55.6
Total	('000)	706.5	687.1	697.1	696.2	696.4	699.8	694.1	696.5	696.5	6,966.9

(a) At time of interview. (b) Participation relates to husband in married couple income unit, parent in one-parent income unit and person in one-person income unit.

TABLE 2. ALL INCOME UNITS: INCOME SHARE FOR GROSS ANNUAL INCOME UNIT DECILE GROUPS
BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, 1985-86

Gross annual income deciles	Married couple income units						
	With dependent children	Without dependent children and husband aged(a):		All married couple income units	One-parent income units	One-person income units	All income units
		15-44 years	45 years and over				
Income share (per cent)							
Lowest	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.4	2.6	2.4	1.8
2nd	4.9	5.3	3.9	3.6	4.5	3.9	2.9
3rd	6.4	7.1	4.3	5.1	5.4	4.3	4.1
4th	7.5	8.5	5.0	6.8	6.2	5.2	5.4
5th	8.5	9.4	6.2	8.3	6.8	7.0	7.0
6th	9.5	10.2	8.1	9.7	7.7	9.2	8.9
7th	10.6	11.1	10.4	11.1	9.3	11.3	11.0
8th	12.1	12.5	13.0	12.8	13.0	13.5	13.6
9th	14.1	14.1	16.6	15.2	17.4	16.6	17.0
Highest	23.7	18.8	29.5	25.0	27.1	26.6	28.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Gini coefficient	0.30	0.24	0.40	0.35	0.37	0.38	0.41
Median income(\$)	29,100	35,690	16,000	26,180	8,700	10,870	16,940
Mean income(\$)	32,200	36,800	22,580	29,130	12,170	13,320	21,390
Number('000)	1,897.9	362.9	1,315.9	3,576.7	260.1	3,130.2	6,966.9

(a) At time of interview.

TABLE 3. ALL INCOME UNITS: GROSS ANNUAL INCOME BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT BY STATE OR TERRITORY, 1985-86

Gross annual income(\$)	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
MARRIED COUPLE INCOME UNITS									
—'000—									
1 - 4,999	31.7	12.6	18.7	4.8	5.1	*1.9			73.6
5,000 - 7,499	17.2	10.6	*5.7	*4.0	6.5			2.9	45.2
7,500 - 9,999	121.4	100.3	53.9	36.8	28.9	11.7		*2.3	356.1
10,000 - 12,499	95.5	68.6	47.1	28.7	22.5	9.3			272.1
12,500 - 14,999	62.1	38.3	29.1	13.6	11.1	4.0			160.2
15,000 - 17,499	57.9	41.3	34.5	17.1	14.6	5.2			173.0
17,500 - 19,999	47.1	54.7	38.6	20.4	14.9	6.4			184.7
20,000 - 22,499	73.1	47.1	31.6	22.8	20.1	10.5			206.7
22,500 - 24,999	66.2	47.3	40.2	19.3	22.8	6.9			207.3
25,000 - 27,499	79.7	58.0	40.2	19.5	22.2	6.3			228.1
27,500 - 29,999	62.7	54.5	32.5	20.3	21.8	6.1			202.4
30,000 - 32,499	70.8	68.0	31.6	19.8	18.6	6.9			218.6
32,500 - 34,999	85.9	50.8	26.5	11.1	17.4	6.1			204.8
35,000 - 39,999	107.0	85.3	51.1	29.3	27.3	5.4			315.9
40,000 - 44,999	75.1	66.9	39.3	11.9	19.5	8.8			229.2
45,000 - 49,999	52.6	38.6	25.6	13.6	11.8	3.4			154.4
50,000 - 59,999	64.5	41.2	16.9	13.6	15.2	4.0			161.8
60,000 - 69,999	31.0	19.9	*5.0	5.7	13.2				82.8
70,000 and over	34.1	31.7	12.1	*3.9	9.2		3.3	*3.4	6.1
Total	1,235.4	935.8	580.3	316.2	322.8	106.0	26.7	53.5	3,576.7
—Dollars—									
Median income(\$)	26,170	27,320	24,210	23,940	26,860	23,430	36,360	39,310	26,180
Mean income(\$)	29,660	30,060	26,540	26,150	29,700	26,780	39,210	42,400	29,130
ONE-PARENT INCOME UNITS									
—'000—									
1 - 4,999	11.4	*7.6	*2.8	*2.4		7.9	4.0		25.6
5,000 - 7,499	15.3	13.9	13.4	8.9		6.7		*2.2	64.1
7,500 - 9,999	29.1	10.2	8.7	5.1		4.8	3.0		62.3
10,000 - 14,999	14.0	*8.1	9.2	*2.2					40.0
15,000 - 19,999	11.8		7.6	*1.8					25.7
20,000 and over	15.1	10.0	6.8	*4.1		6.2	*1.1	*1.8	42.4
Total	96.7	49.8	48.5	24.5	25.5	8.1	4.0	3.0	260.1
—Dollars—									
Median income(\$)	9,030	8,280	9,460	7,830	9,130	7,680	12,330	18,900	8,700
Mean income(\$)	12,170	12,050	12,260	11,080	12,340	9,520	15,630	22,590	12,170
ONE-PERSON INCOME UNITS									
—'000—									
1 - 2,499	30.4	17.7	14.0	10.1	8.9	3.1			*1.3
2,500 - 4,999	117.9	67.4	48.9	23.7	20.5	8.9			*1.8
5,000 - 7,499	282.6	214.5	143.7	79.7	60.6	25.4			*2.1
7,500 - 9,999	115.1	59.6	50.6	23.4	27.4	8.9			3.6
10,000 - 12,499	78.4	91.9	42.5	18.0	23.0	7.2			*1.3
12,500 - 14,999	104.5	73.5	45.6	26.3	20.5	4.0			263.6
15,000 - 17,499	89.3	69.8	44.7	21.8	25.0	5.4			283.9
17,500 - 19,999	94.8	55.4	33.8	20.8	15.6	5.2			265.2
20,000 - 24,999	102.2	80.2	37.8	21.7	20.1	7.1			230.7
25,000 - 29,999	58.8	47.1	18.9	11.3	13.7	3.6			284.0
30,000 - 34,999	25.9	23.3	7.6	5.3	8.1				159.1
35,000 - 39,999	18.2	10.6	*5.4		*3.2				75.9
40,000 and over	20.2	11.5	*3.2		*4.0				41.0
Total	1,138.4	822.6	496.7	266.0	250.8	80.3	31.3	44.1	3,130.2
—Dollars—									
Median income(\$)	10,000	11,390	9,330	9,530	11,060	7,700	16,310	17,180	10,870
Mean income(\$)	13,490	13,950	12,120	12,100	13,340	11,160	16,990	19,270	13,320

TABLE 4. ALL INCOME UNITS: PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF GROSS ANNUAL INCOME BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, 1985-86

Type of income unit	Principal source of income					Total	
	Wages or salary	Own business, trade or profession	Other private income		Government pensions and benefits		
			Super-annuation	Other			
—'000—							
Married couple income units:							
Without dependent children and husband aged(a)—							
15-24 years	35.1	*	*	*	*	36.8	
25-44 years	282.5	25.5	*	8.6	8.6	326.1	
45-64 years	474.2	92.1	30.9	65.3	144.5	806.9	
65 years and over	26.0	15.2	34.1	63.3	370.4	509.0	
With dependent children—							
one dependent child	472.7	73.7	*4.9	16.0	38.9	606.2	
two dependent children	640.9	91.8	*	20.9	48.7	804.6	
three or more dependent children	351.5	79.2	*	11.0	44.5	487.0	
One-parent income units:							
one dependent child	53.9	*4.2	*	*	81.1	142.0	
two or more dependent children	31.5	*	*	*5.2	77.1	118.1	
One-person income units aged(a):							
15-24 years	988.6	32.4	*	31.2	151.6	1,203.8	
25-44 years	628.6	54.1	*	16.4	90.9	790.4	
45-64 years	212.2	30.0	12.5	34.9	219.3	508.9	
65 years and over	*5.8	12.9	32.2	63.5	512.7	627.1	
All income units	4,203.7	513.3	121.0	339.0	1,789.9	6,966.9	
—Mean income(\$)—							
Married couple income units:							
Without dependent children and husband aged(a)—							
15-24 years	30,580	*	*	*	*	29,640	
25-44 years	38,870	33,090	*	40,410	9,470	37,600	
45-64 years	32,820	30,740	20,340	30,260	9,940	27,800	
65 years and over	30,360	31,320	21,040	24,500	10,130	14,310	
With dependent children—							
one dependent child	33,480	31,920	*23,790	53,690	8,780	32,160	
two dependent children	34,070	29,480	*	67,380	9,140	32,900	
three or more dependent children	34,330	26,590	*	47,970	9,500	31,090	
One-parent income units:							
one dependent child	19,300	*26,720	*	*	6,680	12,050	
two or more dependent children	22,410	*	*	*9,200	8,190	12,310	
One-person income units aged(a):							
15-24 years	12,790	15,110	*	6,700	4,390	11,640	
25-44 years	22,000	15,920	*	14,050	5,500	19,520	
45-64 years	23,140	18,780	12,220	19,480	5,570	14,790	
65 years and over	*18,680	16,130	14,440	14,050	5,960	7,540	
All income units	26,500	26,450	18,440	25,790	7,320	21,390	

(a) At time of interview.

TABLE 5. ALL INCOME UNITS: PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT PENSIONS AND BENEFITS TO GROSS ANNUAL INCOME BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, 1985-86

Type of income unit	Per cent of income from government pensions and benefits					Total	
	Nil and less than 1	1 and less than 20	20 and less than 50	50 and less than 90	90 and over		
—'000—							
Married couple income units:							
Without dependent children and husband aged(a)—							
15-24 years	28.3	*4.9	*	*	*	36.8	
25-44 years	283.7	30.4	*3.7	*3.1	*5.2	326.1	
45-64 years	557.0	78.1	29.2	63.0	79.6	806.9	
65 years and over	55.9	37.0	48.3	159.5	208.3	509.0	
With dependent children—							
one dependent child	59.2	498.3	9.9	11.1	27.8	606.2	
two dependent children	*	735.5	18.9	13.3	34.9	804.6	
three or more dependent children	*	416.0	25.9	15.3	29.9	487.0	
One-parent income units:							
one dependent child	13.7	41.8	*5.4	21.1	60.0	142.0	
two or more dependent children	*3.2	29.7	8.9	23.4	52.9	118.1	
One-person income units aged(a):							
15-24 years	813.7	166.3	75.1	53.9	94.8	1,203.8	
25-44 years	601.5	71.5	25.5	28.8	63.1	790.4	
45-64 years	247.8	29.7	14.1	48.5	168.8	508.9	
65 years and over	60.1	14.1	41.7	127.4	383.8	627.1	
All income units	2,725.9	2,153.3	308.5	569.6	1,209.7	6,966.9	
—Mean income(\$)—							
Married couple income units:							
Without dependent children and husband aged(a)—							
15-24 years	32,490	*25,470	*	*	*	29,640	
25-44 years	39,580	29,540	*15,850	*8,320	*10,010	37,600	
45-64 years	33,020	28,150	14,740	10,720	9,250	27,800	
65 years and over	28,910	32,470	15,610	10,950	9,450	14,310	
With dependent children—							
one dependent child	39,680	33,400	16,420	10,670	8,030	32,160	
two dependent children	*	34,870	16,870	10,270	8,570	32,900	
three or more dependent children	*	34,330	16,520	9,140	9,830	31,090	
One-parent income units:							
one dependent child	20,280	19,950	*10,770	7,520	6,380	12,050	
two or more dependent children	*25,610	21,950	11,220	9,400	7,580	12,310	
One-person income units aged(a):							
15-24 years	13,550	10,730	7,360	5,000	3,970	11,640	
25-44 years	22,390	17,390	8,420	5,930	5,240	19,520	
45-64 years	23,220	14,310	10,910	6,850	5,110	14,790	
65 years and over	16,920	14,230	11,260	6,900	5,640	7,540	
All income units	24,290	30,710	12,090	8,580	6,690	21,390	

(a) At time of interview.

TABLE 6. PERSONS WITH EARNED INCOME: GROSS ANNUAL EARNED INCOME DECILE GROUPS BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, 1985-86

Characteristics of persons with earned income	Gross annual earned income decile										All persons with earned income
	Lowest 10%	Second decile	Third decile	Fourth decile	Fifth decile	Sixth decile	Seventh decile	Eighth decile	Ninth decile	Highest 10%	
Upper boundary of decile group(\$)	3,788	7,200	10,658	13,800	16,276	18,626	21,370	25,000	30,400	n.a.	n.a.
Average gross earned annual income(\$)	1,730	5,500	8,940	12,270	15,120	17,450	19,970	23,230	27,500	41,500	17,310
Proportion of persons with earned income with principal source of earned income being:											
Wages or salary	%	98.2	94.3	95.8	93.8	96.7	96.8	95.4	95.3	96.5	91.3
Own business, trade or profession	%	1.8	5.7	4.2	6.2	3.3	3.2	4.6	4.7	3.5	8.7
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Proportion of persons with earned income and aged(a):											
15-24 years	%	28.6	26.3	32.5	35.8	27.8	19.9	13.3	8.0	4.8	1.7
25-34 years	%	23.6	26.1	21.2	21.1	26.9	31.4	35.4	38.3	34.2	22.8
35-44 years	%	21.4	19.3	22.0	20.2	19.9	22.3	25.5	27.1	34.4	25.4
45-54 years	%	11.3	15.8	15.2	14.6	15.3	15.4	16.8	16.5	21.9	15.9
55-64 years	%	10.3	9.4	7.2	6.4	9.0	10.5	8.9	9.1	9.5	10.7
65 years and over	%	4.7	3.1	1.9	1.9	*1.2	*0.6	*	*0.6	*0.6	*1.0
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Proportion of persons with earned income who were:											
Male	%	34.6	39.4	44.2	49.0	54.4	62.4	73.5	76.5	84.2	87.9
Female	%	65.4	60.6	55.8	51.0	45.6	37.6	26.5	23.5	15.8	12.1
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Proportion of persons with earned income with labour force participation being:											
Full-year, full-time	%	12.3	26.1	37.5	66.2	78.9	88.1	91.8	94.2	94.7	95.8
Full-year, part-time	%	19.6	29.4	28.9	15.9	9.7	4.7	2.9	2.4	2.3	2.6
Part-year, full-time	%	26.0	26.2	25.0	15.7	10.0	6.2	4.7	3.0	2.9	1.6
Part-year, part-time	%	42.0	18.4	8.6	2.2	1.4	*0.9	*0.6	*	*	12.1
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	7.5
Estimated number of persons with earned income in:											
Metropolitan areas	('000)	417.1	425.9	426.3	433.6	447.3	474.3	486.9	485.3	512.8	496.3
Other urban areas	('000)	188.7	174.1	193.8	192.0	190.7	179.1	173.5	174.3	144.8	165.2
Rural areas	('000)	101.3	110.2	84.0	81.5	69.4	53.7	46.8	55.9	40.7	46.0
Total	('000)	707.0	710.2	704.2	707.1	707.4	707.1	707.2	715.5	698.3	707.5
											7,071.4

(a) At time of interview.

TABLE 7. PERSONS WITH ANNUAL EARNED INCOME: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 1985-86

Labour force participation	Males	Married females	Other females	All females	Persons
—'000—					
Full-year, full-time	3,526.1	776.2	546.8	1,323.0	4,849.1
Full-year, part-time	143.9	592.5	100.9	693.4	837.3
Part-year, full-time—					
40-47 weeks	144.5	51.2	45.2	96.4	240.9
30-39 weeks	122.9	38.2	37.9	76.1	199.0
15-29 weeks	149.0	52.1	54.1	106.2	255.2
1-14 weeks	85.2	49.8	27.6	77.5	162.7
Part-year, part-time—					
30-47 weeks	55.1	154.3	42.3	196.6	251.7
1-29 weeks	58.3	161.5	55.8	217.3	275.6
Total	4,285.1	1,875.8	910.6	2,786.4	7,071.4
—Mean gross annual earned income(\$)—					
Full-year, full-time	22,800	17,860	16,990	17,500	21,350
Full-year, part-time	11,600	9,880	8,060	9,610	9,960
Part-year, full-time—					
40-47 weeks	16,370	13,490	11,220	12,420	14,790
30-39 weeks	12,660	10,590	10,070	10,330	11,770
15-29 weeks	8,090	7,660	6,140	6,890	7,590
1-14 weeks	2,950	3,170	2,020	2,760	2,860
Part-year, part-time—					
30-47 weeks	6,850	6,660	5,070	6,320	6,440
1-29 weeks	2,760	2,220	2,140	2,200	2,320
Total	20,530	12,130	12,870	12,370	17,310

TABLE 8. FULL-YEAR, FULL-TIME WORKERS(a): INCOME SHARE FOR GROSS ANNUAL EARNED INCOME DECILE GROUPS, 1985-86

Gross annual earned income deciles	Males		Females		Persons	
	Income share (per cent)	Mean income (\$)	Income share (per cent)	Mean income (\$)	Income share (per cent)	Mean income (\$)
Lowest	2.9	6,670	3.1	5,390	2.9	6,270
2nd	5.6	12,800	6.2	10,840	5.6	12,040
3rd	7.0	15,920	7.5	13,050	6.9	14,840
4th	7.9	18,030	8.4	14,680	7.9	16,810
5th	8.8	20,000	9.1	16,010	8.7	18,630
6th	9.7	22,060	9.9	17,320	9.7	20,650
7th	10.8	24,690	10.8	18,920	10.8	23,060
8th	12.1	27,540	12.1	21,180	12.2	25,980
9th	14.0	31,960	14.0	24,440	14.1	30,170
Highest	21.2	48,280	19.0	33,210	21.1	45,080
Total	100.0	22,800	100.0	17,500	100.0	21,350
Gini coefficient	0.26		0.23		0.26	
Median income(\$)	21,000		16,660		19,640	
Mean income(\$)	22,800		17,500		21,350	
Number('000)	3,526.1		1,323.0		4,849.1	

(a) Excludes 90,100 full-year, full-time workers whose earned income was zero.

TABLE 9. FULL-YEAR, FULL-TIME WORKERS(a) : GROSS ANNUAL EARNED INCOME, 1985-86

Gross annual earned income(\$)	Age group (years)					Total	
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over		
MALES							
—'000—							
1 - 2,499							
2,500 - 4,999	11.6	8.7	*5.1	*8.3	15.6	40.0	
5,000 - 7,499	20.4	13.1	16.4	11.8	*5.6	56.2	
7,500 - 9,999	50.9	22.1	13.6	18.8	13.2	88.1	
10,000 - 12,499	71.2	31.5	24.7	20.3	13.5	127.8	
12,500 - 14,999	93.1	54.0	36.9	22.2	24.4	230.6	
15,000 - 17,499	88.0	116.9	83.0	58.5	51.9	398.3	
17,500 - 19,999	72.6	146.7	86.0	77.8	49.9	433.0	
20,000 - 22,499	52.0	150.9	125.1	64.6	50.0	442.5	
22,500 - 24,999	21.5	106.8	86.8	56.5	26.7	298.3	
25,000 - 27,499	19.5	124.0	116.9	52.1	28.2	340.6	
27,500 - 29,999	*6.7	69.5	76.7	41.4	24.2	218.5	
30,000 - 34,999	*8.4	79.4	116.7	48.3	27.6	280.4	
35,000 - 39,999		36.1	67.6	40.7	18.3	165.6	
40,000 - 44,999	*5.8	19.1	38.6	19.7	12.4	91.0	
45,000 - 49,999		*6.5	19.7	13.3	*7.3	47.3	
50,000 and over		13.7	28.4	22.4	13.9	79.5	
<i>Total</i>	521.5	1,017.5	971.0	614.7	401.5	3,526.1	
—Dollars—							
Median income(\$)	15,060	21,500	24,000	22,000	20,000	21,000	
Mean income(\$)	15,870	22,850	25,560	24,440	22,460	22,800	
FEMALES							
—'000—							
1 - 2,499							
2,500 - 4,999	*6.7	12.3	*6.7	*6.3	*4.3	19.3	
5,000 - 7,499	22.8	*4.8	*7.2	*3.1	8.7	29.9	
7,500 - 9,999	29.5	*7.6	*7.7	11.3	54.8	54.3	
10,000 - 12,499	64.0	18.1	26.2	14.9	*6.2	126.9	
12,500 - 14,999	75.5	44.4	43.3	23.1	11.0	197.3	
15,000 - 17,499	74.8	73.7	58.4	43.8	15.0	265.7	
17,500 - 19,999	30.9	64.7	37.2	34.2	9.0	176.1	
20,000 - 22,499	18.9	53.2	30.5	20.5	10.5	133.5	
22,500 - 24,999	*4.7	40.0	19.2	10.8	*6.8	81.6	
25,000 - 27,499		28.3	18.8	13.0	8.7	71.6	
27,500 - 29,999	*4.2	13.4	10.7	*4.0	*5.8	29.8	
30,000 - 34,999		9.2	23.4	11.5	*4.1	49.6	
35,000 and over		*8.3	13.3	*6.8		32.6	
<i>Total</i>	332.0	378.0	312.5	210.4	90.2	1,323.0	
—Dollars—							
Median income(\$)	13,840	18,570	17,730	17,140	17,610	16,660	
Mean income(\$)	13,790	19,150	18,870	17,950	18,490	17,500	
PERSONS							
—'000—							
1 - 2,499							
2,500 - 4,999	*6.6	10.2	11.9	14.7	16.0	59.3	
5,000 - 7,499	11.7	23.9	26.1	14.8	9.5	86.1	
7,500 - 9,999	43.1	26.8	20.9	30.1	21.9	142.9	
10,000 - 12,499	135.1	49.6	55.0	52.8	22.7	315.2	
12,500 - 14,999	168.6	98.3	80.2	45.3	35.4	427.9	
15,000 - 17,499	162.7	190.6	141.4	102.4	66.8	664.0	
17,500 - 19,999	103.5	211.4	123.2	112.1	58.9	609.2	
20,000 - 22,499	70.8	204.1	155.5	85.2	60.5	576.1	
22,500 - 24,999	26.3	146.9	106.0	67.3	33.5	379.9	
25,000 - 27,499	22.3	152.3	135.7	65.1	36.8	412.2	
27,500 - 29,999	*7.4	82.9	87.4	45.4	25.2	248.4	
30,000 - 34,999	9.0	88.6	140.2	59.8	32.3	329.9	
35,000 - 39,999		39.1	73.8	44.6	19.7	180.1	
40,000 - 44,999	*5.8	21.6	41.3	20.7	15.0	99.8	
45,000 - 49,999		*7.8	21.2	14.0	*7.4	51.0	
50,000 and over		15.3	31.4	23.5	13.9	85.2	
<i>Total</i>	853.4	1,395.4	1,283.5	825.1	491.7	4,849.1	
—Dollars—							
Median income(\$)	14,560	20,620	22,390	20,360	19,700	19,640	
Mean income(\$)	15,060	21,850	23,930	22,780	21,740	21,350	

(a) Excludes 90,100 full-year, full-time workers whose earned income was zero.

TABLE 10. MARRIED COUPLE INCOME UNITS : GROSS WEEKLY INCOME BY LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION BY NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN, SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1986

Gross weekly income(\$)	Number of persons in labour force										All married couple income units	
	Neither in labour force			One			Both					
	No dependent children	One dependent child	Two or more dependent children	No dependent children	One dependent child	Two or more dependent children	No dependent children	One dependent child	Two or more dependent children			
-'000—												
1 - 99	321.3	17.0	*7.9	67.9	22.7	35.5	27.0	16.7	26.1	542.2		
200 - 249	152.0	*7.5	16.3	35.3	16.9	31.7	21.4	*4.9	18.7	304.7		
250 - 299	65.7	*3.2	*7.5	28.0	*8.1	25.5	13.5	*6.7	26.8	184.9		
300 - 349	22.9		*3.0	49.5	21.5	48.0	21.5	11.6	27.5	208.3		
350 - 399	22.4			46.8	31.4	61.7	14.6	14.7	35.6	228.8		
400 - 449	13.5			44.7	26.7	62.8	32.5	13.3	42.3	237.3		
450 - 499	12.2			36.1	30.8	46.2	27.6	18.8	41.6	214.3		
500 - 549	8.6			22.3	18.0	54.2	46.2	27.9	58.6	235.7		
550 - 599	*3.7			19.7	13.7	37.3	41.8	35.6	68.7	220.6		
600 - 649	*4.0			11.9	10.2	31.4	56.9	26.0	49.1	189.5		
650 - 699	*3.8			11.4	9.1	23.3	65.2	18.5	53.6	185.4		
700 - 749		*4.3	*3.6	9.2		14.4	50.4	25.7	45.0	149.2		
750 - 799	*6.1			10.4	*6.6	17.6	42.7	25.8	33.6	135.7		
800 - 849				*6.5	*4.6	9.8	46.1	19.0	33.0	122.1		
850 - 899				*3.7		10.5	32.5	17.1	25.3	96.3		
900 - 949		*4.1		*3.6	*6.2		*5.4	31.2	11.5	28.1	79.7	
950 - 999				*3.6		*5.2	*4.0	26.0	17.7	21.7	77.3	
1,000 - 1,049				*3.6		*3.2	23.6	16.8	13.2	61.4		
1,050 - 1,099				10.6	*6.9	*7.5	21.3	*7.9	16.3	56.7		
1,100 and over		*4.5				18.7	80.3	37.6	71.5	226.5		
Total	645.0	32.1	38.3	421.4	238.6	548.7	722.4	373.9	736.4	3,756.8		
—Dollars—												
Median income(\$)	200	192	242	381	435	460	688	683	622	484		
Mean income(\$)	249	206	246	435	466	524	735	757	684	553		

TABLE 11. ONE-PARENT INCOME UNITS : GROSS WEEKLY INCOME BY LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN, SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1986

Gross weekly income(\$)	Female parent		Female parent		All female parents	Male parent	All one-parent income units
	In labour force	Not in labour force	One dependent child	Two or more dependent children			
-'000—							
1 - 99	*3.3	*8.1	*6.5	*4.9	11.4	*4.1	15.5
100 - 199	30.4	115.3	84.0	61.7	145.7	*8.1	153.7
200 - 299	29.1	25.9	12.1	42.9	55.0	*6.9	61.9
300 - 399	34.8		22.6	15.1	37.7	*6.1	43.8
400 - 499	13.0	*3.0	*5.7	*7.3	13.0	*3.1	16.1
500 and over	16.5		*7.6	8.9	16.5	*8.3	24.9
Total	127.1	152.2	138.5	140.8	279.3	36.6	315.9
—Dollars—							
Median income(\$)	302	160	158	201	184	283	186
Mean income(\$)	320	164	223	247	235	341	247

TABLE 12. ONE-PERSON INCOME UNITS : GROSS WEEKLY INCOME BY LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION,
SEPTEMBER -DECEMBER 1986

Gross weekly income(\$)	In labour force			Not in labour force		All one-person income units			
	15-24 years	25-64 years	Total(a)	65 years and over	Total(b)	15-24 years	25-64 years	65 years and over	Total
MALES									
—'000—									
1 - 49	16.1	10.6	29.6	*4.4	15.3	24.1	17.9	*8.1	44.9
50 - 99	96.2	37.5	134.5		40.7	115.7	54.3		175.2
100 - 149	59.9	34.4	95.6	97.1	182.7	73.4	106.4	98.4	278.3
150 - 199	83.7	14.8	98.5	11.3	17.8	83.7	21.3	11.3	116.3
200 - 249	102.9	23.7	127.9	*3.5	10.0	103.7	29.3	*4.9	137.8
250 - 299	104.5	48.4	152.9	*5.0	*7.7	104.5	51.1	*5.0	160.6
300 - 399	173.7	173.5	348.8	*5.5	10.0	173.7	176.9	9.0	356.9
400 - 499	90.3	126.6	218.8		90.3	90.3	127.7		220.7
500 - 599	31.0	87.0	118.0	*3.3	*4.8	31.0	87.7	*4.3	120.3
600 - 699	9.7	38.2	47.9			9.7	39.0		49.8
700 and over	11.4	72.2	84.6			11.4	72.2		85.1
<i>Total</i>	779.3	666.8	1,457.0	130.1	288.9	821.2	783.8	141.0	1,746.0
—Dollars—									
Median income(\$)	252	384	311	114	110	243	348	114	274
Mean income(\$)	271	426	342	148	132	262	382	156	307
FEMALES									
—'000—									
1 - 49	*7.2	*	8.6	*3.3	18.2	16.2	*7.3	*3.3	26.8
50 - 99	67.6	16.0	83.5	31.6	71.3	87.9	35.3	31.6	154.9
100 - 149	62.6	22.7	86.4	348.5	510.9	67.7	180.1	349.6	597.3
150 - 199	76.1	18.0	94.1	65.5	78.1	76.1	30.6	65.5	172.2
200 - 249	89.7	27.1	116.7	18.9	25.0	89.7	33.1	18.9	141.7
250 - 299	88.1	37.4	127.5	9.0	11.1	88.1	39.5	11.1	138.7
300 - 399	122.7	90.1	213.8	12.0	14.4	122.7	92.5	12.9	228.2
400 - 499	27.4	69.1	96.5	*4.2	*5.6	27.4	70.5	*4.2	102.1
500 and over	*3.9	71.7	75.6	*5.2	*7.6	*3.9	74.1	*5.2	83.2
<i>Total</i>	545.2	353.6	902.8	498.3	742.3	579.6	563.1	502.3	1,645.1
—Dollars—									
Median income(\$)	220	363	275	111	108	210	245	111	154
Mean income(\$)	231	369	285	139	133	221	280	140	216
PERSONS									
—'000—									
1 - 49	23.3	12.0	38.2	*3.3	33.5	40.3	25.2	*6.2	71.7
50 - 99	163.8	53.4	218.0	36.0	112.0	203.7	89.6	36.8	330.1
100 - 149	122.5	57.2	182.1	445.7	693.6	141.1	286.5	448.0	875.6
150 - 199	159.8	32.8	192.6	76.8	96.0	159.8	51.9	76.8	288.5
200 - 249	192.6	50.7	244.6	22.5	35.0	193.4	62.4	23.8	279.6
250 - 299	192.6	85.8	280.5	14.0	18.8	192.6	90.6	16.0	299.3
300 - 399	296.4	263.6	562.6	16.6	22.4	296.4	269.4	19.3	585.1
400 - 499	117.7	195.7	315.3	*5.0	*7.5	117.7	198.2	*6.9	322.8
500 - 599	33.8	134.0	167.8	*4.0	*4.7	33.8	134.7	*4.0	172.5
600 - 699	10.1	52.3	62.4	*4.5	*3.9	10.1	53.2	*5.6	66.3
700 and over	12.0	82.8	95.8		*3.9	12.0	85.1		99.7
<i>Total</i>	1,324.6	1,020.4	2,359.8	628.4	1,031.2	1,400.9	1,346.9	643.3	3,391.1
—Dollars—									
Median income(\$)	240	375	298	111	109	228	316	112	210
Mean income(\$)	255	406	320	141	133	245	339	143	263

(a) Includes one-person income units aged 65 years and over in the labour force. (b) Includes one-person income units aged 15-64 years and not in the labour force.

APPENDIX 1

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This publication presents data on income units and persons with earned income. It replaces the publication previously advertised as containing preliminary results from the 1986 Income Distribution Survey — viz. *Income and Housing Survey — Income of Individuals, Australia, Preliminary* (6501.0).

Scope

Geographical areas

2. The survey covered both rural and urban areas in all States and Territories.

Dwellings

3. The survey covered both private and special dwellings. Private dwellings are houses, flats, home units, garages, tents and any other structures used as private places of residence at the time of the survey. Special dwellings are hotels, boarding houses, construction camps, caravan parks, etc.

Persons

4. The survey included all persons aged 15 or over except:

- (a) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- (b) overseas residents in Australia;
- (c) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia;
- (d) persons who migrated to Australia after 30 June 1986; and
- (e) students in boarding schools and residents of institutions such as hospitals and sanatoria, and inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc.

Survey design

5. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings and non-private dwellings, and covered about one-sixth of one per cent of the population of Australia. The following table shows the number of responding households across States and Territories.

1986 INCOME DISTRIBUTION SURVEY:
NUMBER OF RESPONDING HOUSEHOLDS

State or Territory	Metro-politan	Other urban	Rural	Total
New South Wales	1,313	587	159	2,059
Victoria	1,221	326	116	1,663
Queensland	659	552	190	1,401
South Australia	842	193	107	1,142
Western Australia	842	194	79	1,115
Tasmania	222	242	99	563
Northern Territory	0	68	4	72
Australian Capital Territory	0	134	40	174
Australia	5,099	2,296	794	8,189

Data collection method

6. The survey was conducted throughout Australia in the period September to December 1986. The information was obtained by trained interviewers in a personal interview conducted with each resident aged 15 or over in the selected dwelling.

7. Respondents were asked to refer to personal records such as taxation assessment or return forms, group certificates, pay slips, etc. to enhance the accuracy of the data.

8. Persons with income from their own business who did not know their annual income were asked if the interviewers could call back when their records were available. Call-backs were made in February to March 1987.

Reliability of the estimates

9. The estimates provided in this publication are subject to two types of error.

Sampling error

10. This is the difference which would be expected between the estimate and the corresponding figure that would have been obtained from a collection based on the whole population, using the same questionnaires and procedures. A measure of the sampling error for a given estimate is provided by the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate (relative standard error). In this publication, estimates with a relative standard error between 30 and 50 per cent are preceded by an *. Estimates with a relative standard error greater than 50 per cent are suppressed and replaced by an *. Appendix 3 contains a discussion of sampling error as well as giving details for calculating the relative standard error for selected estimates in this publication.

Non-sampling error

11. These errors can occur whether the estimates are derived from a sample or from a complete enumeration, and are usually referred to as non-sampling errors. Three major sources of non-sampling error are:

- (a) inability to obtain comprehensive data from all persons included in the sample. These errors arise because of differences which exist between the characteristics of respondents and non-respondents;
- (b) errors in reporting on the part of both respondents and interviewers. These reporting errors may arise through inappropriate wording of questions, misunderstanding of what data are required, inability or unwillingness to provide accurate information and mistakes in answers to questions; and
- (c) errors arising during processing of the survey data. These processing errors may arise through mistakes in coding and data recording.

12. Non-sampling errors are difficult to measure in any collection. However, every effort was made to minimise these errors. In particular, the effect of the reporting and processing errors described above was minimised by careful questionnaire design, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, asking respondents to refer to records whenever possible and extensive editing and quality control checking at all stages of data processing.

Interpretation of results

13. As the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. In addition, estimates are subject to reporting errors. Although some respondents referred to their records, in many cases the answers to the questions on income were based on memory. Some understatement in the estimates may be expected because of imperfect recall or misunderstanding, particularly of minor sources of income.

14. For a number of reasons income received by a person does not necessarily reflect his or her living standard. Gifts and donations — for example those made by relatives or charities — were not counted as income even though in many cases they may have been an important means of support. Some people may have chosen to live off savings. Others have received benefits not involving direct cash payments, e.g. employment benefits of various kinds.

15. For certain persons, *annual* income as measured in this survey may not reflect actual circumstances over the period. Such persons are of two types:

- (a) persons not in a position to receive income as defined for the full period (e.g. migrants who arrived part way through the period);
- (b) persons who may have been dependants at some time during the period but were not at time of interview. In this case, attributes measured at time of interview (e.g. marital status, school attendance) are not appropriate variables by which to classify annual income.

16. Consequently, the following persons have been excluded from tables on *annual* income of individuals and, where such a person was the head or spouse of an income unit, these units have also been excluded from tables on annual income:

- (a) females who changed marital status after 30 June 1985 (262,000 females and 262,000 income units)
- (b) persons aged 15-20 years who attended school full time for part of the 1985-86 financial year (250,400 persons and 211,200 income units)

- (c) persons aged 15-20 years who were attending school full time at the time of interview (622,100 persons and 2,000 income units)
- (d) persons who migrated to Australia during 1985-86 (70,300 persons and 58,400 income units)
- (e) persons who migrated to Australia after 30 June 1986 (39,800 persons and 29,500 income units)
- (f) Australians who were overseas for more than 12 weeks during 1985-86 but not for the full year and worked during that time for a non-Australian business (27,900 persons and 23,900 income units)
- (g) Australians who were overseas for the full twelve months during 1985-86 (16,500 persons and 12,500 income units).

With the exception of (c), (e) and (g), persons and income units described above are included in analysis of *current* weekly income.

17. For both annual and current income, income units which had zero income have been excluded from tables.

Symbols and other usages

18. The following *symbols*, where shown in columns of figures or elsewhere in tables mean:

- ... not applicable
- n.a. not available
- * estimates preceded by an * indicate a standard error for that estimate of between 30 and 50 per cent. Estimates replaced by an * indicate a standard error for that estimate of more than 50 per cent.

19. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages in tables are calculated prior to rounding of the figures and therefore some discrepancy may exist between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

Electronic services

20. VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

APPENDIX 2

GLOSSARY

Deciles. Ten per cent groupings of the estimated population when income recipients or income units are ranked in ascending order according to each income recipient's or income unit's total gross income.

Dependent child. Person aged under 15 years, or aged 15 to 20 years and a full-time student, who has a parent/guardian in the income unit and is neither a spouse nor parent of anyone in the income unit.

Earned income. Gross income from wages or salary, and from own business, trade or profession.

Employed person. Person aged 15 years or more, who in his or her main job:

- (a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons); or
- (b) worked for fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business or on a farm; or
- (c) was an employee who had a job but was not at work and was: on paid leave; on leave without pay for less than four weeks prior to the placement date; stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks prior to the placement date; on strike or locked out; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or
- (d) was an employer or self-employed person who had a job, business or farm, but was not at work.

Full-time workers. Persons were classified as full-time workers on the basis of the kind of work in which they were mostly engaged during 1985-86, full-time work being defined as work occupying 35 hours or more per week.

Full-year, full-time workers are those who had worked in Australia for at least 48 weeks during the year 1985-86, and had been engaged mostly in full-time work. A person who had worked for 25 weeks full-time and 23 weeks part-time would have been classified as a full-year, full-time worker; however it should be noted that most persons who work for a full year engage in either full-time or part-time work, but not in both.

Full-year, part-time workers are those who had worked in Australia for at least 48 weeks during the year 1985-86 and had been engaged mostly in part-time work.

Gini coefficient. This is one of the most widely used indices for measuring inequality of income. The index, always between 0 and 1, is low for populations with relatively equal income distributions and high for populations with relatively unequal distributions.

Government pensions and benefits includes income received through programs of assistance to aged persons, incapacitated and handicapped persons, unemployed and sick persons, veterans and their dependants, widowed and single parents, families and children, and other social security and welfare programs. Family allowance payments are included.

Gross annual income is income from all sources during 1985-86 before tax or any other deductions are made. This includes income from wages or salary; own business, trade or profession (including share in partnership); government pensions and benefits; superannuation; interest, rent and dividends; other sources such as maintenance or alimony.

Gross weekly income was defined as the sum of amounts usually received per week at the time of interview. It includes moneys received from wages or salary, government pensions and benefits and other regular payments such as superannuation, maintenance, etc. It also includes derived weekly equivalent amounts of income received annually from own business, partnerships, interest, rent, dividends, etc. during 1985-86.

Income unit. A group of people who live together and form a single spending unit. In this publication, income units comprise the following: (i) married couple income units; (ii) one-parent income units and (iii) one-person income units.

Interest, rent, dividends, etc. includes gross income from interest on savings, bonds, debentures, etc., dividends from stocks and shares, net income from rental of a house or other property and net royalties. Current income from these sources was estimated by deriving a weekly equivalent of amounts received from these sources in 1985-86.

Labour force. Persons were classified as being in the labour force if they were employed or unemployed.

Married couple income units consist of a husband, wife and dependent children (if any) as defined. De facto relationships are included.

Mean income is the amount obtained by dividing the total income of a group (e.g. full-year, full-time workers in a given age group) by the number in that group.

Median income is that level of income which divides a group of income recipients or income units into two equal parts, one half having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below it.

One-parent income units consist of a parent and at least one dependent child.

One-person income units consist of persons who are not included in married couple or one-parent income units. Non-dependent children living with their parents are classed as one-person income units.

Other private income comprises income from 'superannuation', 'interest, rent and dividends' and 'other sources'.

Other sources refers to gross income from other than wages or salary, own business, government pensions and benefits, superannuation or interest, rent or dividends. It comprises gross income from items such as private educational scholarships; maintenance or alimony; a trust or will; and an annuity. Income paid at regular intervals and received by a beneficiary under a will, settlement, deed, gift or instrument or trust was included. However, a lump sum payment from any of these sources was not regarded as income.

Own business, trade or profession (including income from a share in a partnership). In these cases, income was defined to be net of business expenses. If income had not been received in 1985-86 or a loss had been made, income from these sources was recorded as nil. Current income from these sources was estimated by deriving a weekly equivalent of amounts received from these sources in 1985-86.

Part-time workers. Persons were classified as part-time workers on the basis of the kind of work in which they were mostly engaged during 1985-86, part-time work being defined as work occupying less than 35 hours a week.

Part-year, full-time workers are those who had worked in Australia for less than 48 weeks during the year 1985-86 and had been engaged mostly in full-time work. A person who had worked for 24 weeks full-time and for 23 weeks part-time would have been classified as a part-year, full-time worker; however, it should be noted that most

persons who work for less than a year engage in either full-time or part-time work but not in both.

Part-year, part-time workers are those who had worked in Australia for less than 48 weeks during the year 1985-86 and had been engaged mostly in part-time work.

Principal source of income is the source which contributed most (the greatest proportion) to total income.

Superannuation comprises gross income from regular payments made to a person or his survivors by a former employer, either directly or through a superannuation fund, insurance company, etc. Any lump sum payment received by a person on his retirement was excluded.

Unemployed persons are those aged fifteen years and over who were not employed during the survey week, and

- (i) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and;
 - were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or
 - were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then; or
- (ii) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of that week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

Wages or salary was defined as the gross income from all wage or salary jobs and limited liability companies before the deduction of tax. The value of items such as payments in kind, employer contributions to board or rent, gratuities and tips, etc. were not recorded as income.

APPENDIX 3

TECHNICAL NOTE ON SAMPLING VARIABILITY

Estimation procedure

Estimates derived from the survey were obtained by using a complex ratio estimation procedure which ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants from a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that the sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Another measure of the likely difference is the *relative standard error*, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of the estimates in this publication. Standard errors of estimates of population numbers (i.e. persons or income units) can be obtained from Table A. Standard errors of non-population estimates (e.g. mean income) are obtained by using the appropriate factor from Table B in conjunction with Table A.

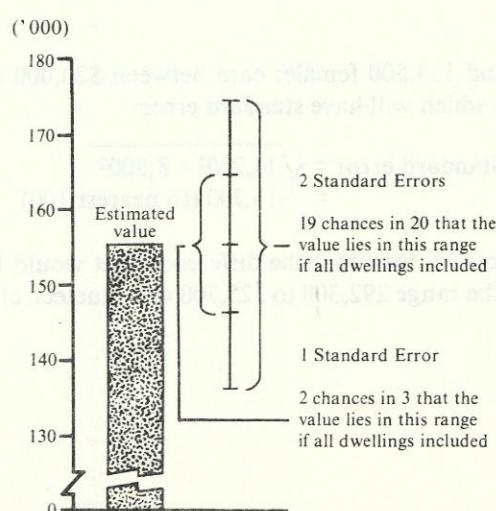
Standard errors of population estimates

4. The size of the standard error increases with the level of the estimate, so that the larger the estimate the larger is the standard error. However, it should be noted that the larger the sampling estimate the smaller will be the standard error in percentage terms. Thus, larger sample estimates will be relatively more reliable than smaller estimates.

5. As the standard errors in Table A show, *the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Only estimates with relative standard errors less than 30% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with relative standard errors between 30% and 50% are included in this publication preceded by the symbol '*' as a caution to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors. Estimates with relative standard errors greater than 50% are not included but are indicated with the symbol '**'. Although values for these small components can sometimes be obtained by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

6. An example of the calculation and use of standard errors is as follows:

From Table 9 the estimated number of persons in the 35-44 year age group earning \$20,000-\$22,499 per year is 155,500. From Table A we see that since the estimate is between 100,000 and 200,000 the standard error is between 7,900 and 10,500. By interpolating we estimate the standard error to be 9,300 (to nearest 100). Therefore there are about two chances in three that the value would have fallen within the range 146,200 to 164,800 if all dwellings were included and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value would have fallen in the range 136,900 to 174,100. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



Standard errors of non-population estimates

7. The standard errors of non-population estimates are obtained by multiplying the *relative standard errors* of the corresponding population estimates by the appropriate factor from Table B. For example:

From Table 9, the mean income for females aged 15-24 who are full-year, full-time workers is \$13,790. This estimate corresponds to an estimated 332,000 people in that category, which has a relative standard error of 4.0% (from Table A). From Table B, the factor for full-year full-time workers is 0.7, hence the estimate of mean has a relative standard error of 2.8% which corresponds to a standard error of \$390.

Standard errors of proportions and percentages

8. Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula given for the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is given below:

$$\text{RSE\% (x/y)} = \sqrt{[\text{RSE\% (x)}]^2 - [\text{RSE\% (y)}]^2}$$

For example:

From Table 1, 13.9% of the fourth decile of income units are married couples with dependent children. Since the decile estimate of total income units is 696,200, the estimate of number of married couples with dependent children in the decile must have been 96,800. Hence the 13.9% estimate will have relative standard error per cent:

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{[\text{RSE\% (96,800)}]^2 - [\text{RSE\% (696,200)}]^2} &= \sqrt{(8.03)^2 - (2.40)^2} \\ &= 7.7\% \end{aligned}$$

giving a standard error of 1.1.

Therefore, there are two chances in three that the percentage that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey is in the range of 12.8% to 15.0% and about nineteen chances in twenty that it is in the range 11.7% to 16.1%.

9. The difference between survey estimates is also an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling variability. The standard error of the difference between two survey estimates depends on the standard errors of the original estimates and on the relationship (correlation) between the two original estimates. An approximate standard error of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the formula:

$$\text{Standard error (x-y)} = \sqrt{[\text{Standard error (x)}]^2 + [\text{Standard error (y)}]^2}$$

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated (unrelated) characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest.

For example:

From Table 9, 442,500 males and 133,500 females earn between \$20,000 and \$22,499 per year. The difference between those figures is 309,000 which will have standard error:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Standard error} &= \sqrt{14,200^2 + 8,800^2} \\ &= 16,700 \text{ (to nearest 100)} \end{aligned}$$

Thus there are about two chances in three that the difference that would be obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey is within the range 292,300 to 325,700 and nineteen chances in twenty that this difference is between 275,600 and 342,400.

TABLE A. STANDARD ERRORS FOR ESTIMATES OF PERSONS AND INCOME UNITS

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Relative standard error	(per cent)(a)
1,300						570			620	
1,500						600			650	
1,800				870		650			700	
2,000				910		690			730	
2,500				1,000		760			800	
3,000				1,100		1,150			850	
3,500				1,400		1,250			900	
4,000	1,900	1,900	1,600	1,250	1,300	920	1,100	950	1,650	46.7
4,500	2,000	2,050	1,700	1,750	1,300	1,400	970	1,150	1,750	43.8
5,000	2,100	2,150	1,900	1,900	1,350	1,450	1,000	1,200	1,850	41.3
6,000	2,300	2,300	1,900	1,900	1,500	1,550	1,100	1,300	1,950	39.3
10,000	2,900	2,900	2,400	1,850	1,950	1,350	1,600	1,300	2,150	35.9
20,000	3,950	3,900	3,250	2,400	2,550	1,700	2,050	1,600	2,750	27.7
50,000	5,800	5,700	4,700	3,400	3,600	2,350	2,850	2,100	3,850	19.3
100,000	7,700	7,400	6,100	4,350	4,650	2,900	3,650	2,550	5,900	11.7
200,000	10,200	9,500	7,900	5,500	5,900	3,550	4,600	3,000	10,500	7.9
300,000	11,800	11,000	9,000	6,200	6,700	3,950		3,250	12,300	5.3
500,000	14,300	13,000	10,600	7,300	7,800	4,450		3,600	15,000	4.1
1,000,000	18,300	16,100	13,100	8,800	9,600				19,300	3.0
2,000,000	23,200	19,700	16,000	10,600	11,600				24,600	1.9
5,000,000	31,200	25,300	20,200						33,000	1.2
10,000,000		38,500							40,600	0.7
20,000,000									49,400	0.4
										0.2

(a) In this publication estimates with a relative standard error of more than 50 per cent have not been shown. Brackets around standard errors indicate a relative standard error exceeding 30 per cent.

TABLE B. NON-POPULATION ESTIMATE RSE FACTORS

Income units	Persons with earned income		
Mean income	1.1	Mean income	0.7
Mean income, single parents and subcategorised married couples (Tables 2, 10)	0.8	Median income, full-year, full-time workers	0.6
Mean income within deciles		Mean income within deciles	
— highest and lowest deciles	0.6	— highest and lowest deciles	0.6
— deciles 2-9	0.1	— deciles 2-9	0.1
Median income	1.5		
Median income, single parents and subcategorised married couples (Tables 2, 10)	0.8		

APPENDIX 4

PUBLICATION AND DATA DISSEMINATION PROGRAM

1986 Income Distribution Survey

To fulfil users' requirements from the survey, a dissemination program has been drawn up. This program consists of three major components.

1. *Publications.* A number of ABS publications are being designed to meet the needs of most users. These publications are briefly described below and may be purchased through the mail or over the counter from offices of the Australian Bureau of Statistics in each capital city.

2. A *public use unit record tape* is planned for release early in 1988, once the unit record data has been 'confidentialised'.

3. *Additional special-purpose tabulations* may be produced on request but full costs of production will have to be met.

Details of all publications, including a summary of their contents, are given below.

1986 Income Distribution Survey, Persons with Earned Income (6546.0) — expected release March 1988 (\$8.00, including postage)

Contains data on persons with earned income and examines the relationship between levels of earned income and demographic and social characteristics of the recipients, e.g. age, sex, labour force attachment, educational qualifications, occupation, etc.

1986 Income Distribution Survey, Income Units (6523.0) — expected release June 1988 (\$10.50, including postage)

Presents data on income units, families and households. Includes data on private income and on income units dependent on government pensions and benefits.

It will allow the identification of units with low income and present statistics on their demographic and labour force characteristics.

Information Paper : 1986 Income Distribution Survey, Sample File on Magnetic Tape (6543.0) — expected release early 1988.

This information paper will provide technical and other details of the sample file, conditions of use and how to order it.

Australia's Low Income Population (4114.0)

This publication will be a statistical report focussing on Australia's low income population. Special emphasis will be given to identifying the characteristics of income units and families at the lower end of the income distribution.

Related publications

Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Income of Individuals, Australia, 1981-82 (6502.0)

Income of Income Units, Australia, 1981-82 (6523.0)

Social Indicators No. 4, 1984 (4101.0)

Australian Families, 1982 (4408.0)

Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.